

ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING

England & Wales · Charity number 1197867

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-02-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 10 Moorland Road
Hemel Hempstead
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Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED BY REASON OF YOUTH, AGE, ILL-HEALTH, DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, BY THE PROVISION OF:(A) FREE RECYCLED SPORTS SHOES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES(B)PROMOTING THE BENEFITS OF RECYCLING AND REUSE OF SPORTS SHOES(C) RAISING AWARENESS OF THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT THAT PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND EXERCISE HAS ON BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

Activities: We provide free recycled sports shoes, which we collect through donations from the community, to enable participation in sports and activities. We promote the benefits of recycling and reusing sports shoes. We raise awareness of the beneficial effect that participation in sports and exercise has on both mental and physical health. We currently operate in Herts and Beds.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-01	£3,604	£18,800	-	-
2024-04-01	£19,038	£4,400	-	-
2023-04-01	£9,994	£6,245	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Fiona Foulkes	Chair	2026-02-24
Lucia Jelley		2024-04-04
Nichola Drew		2024-09-16
Paula Batten		2024-04-11

ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING

England & Wales - Charity number 1197867

Accounts



ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING
SPORTS SHOE NETWORK

Annual Report **1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025**

One Impossible Thing is a CIO and our objectives, as set out in our constitution, are:

the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, by the provision of:

- (a) free recycled sports shoes to enable them to participate in sports and activities
- (b) promoting the benefits of recycling and reuse of sports shoes
- (c) raising awareness of the beneficial effect that participation in sports and exercise has on both mental and physical health.

Summary of our main activities

We deliver these objectives in three key ways

- *Collecting preloved sports shoes*
We collect preloved sports shoes through our permanent recycling bins in sports venues in Dacorum, Luton, St. Albans and Harpenden. We also collect the shoes through one-off Shoe Drives held by schools, sports clubs and businesses. All of these collections promote the benefits of recycling sports shoes and look to change behaviour in the general public.
- *Distributing sports shoes*
We work with schools, sports clubs, refugee groups, homeless charities, charitable organisations and individuals, to distribute the preloved sports shoes to those who need a little extra help.
- *Organising sports challenges*
We promote the benefits of sport by organising a series of One Impossible Challenges that encourages the general public to get involved in physical challenges at their own level, whilst being supported by an online community.

Overview

By the end of the financial year we had distributed 5,612 pairs of preloved sports shoes since the charity started. This equates to a saving of 78.568 tonnes of CO2 emissions. At an average cost of a pair of preloved sports shoes of £25, this has collectively saved families and individuals £140,300.

Distributions

Schools

This financial year we worked with a number of schools to provide free preloved sports shoes for their students. This included ongoing support to Adeyfield Academy (Dacorum), Chiltern Way Academy (Wendover) Kings Langley School (Dacorum), The Hemel Hempstead School (Dacorum) and Dacorum Education Support Centre. New schools included St. Roses Primary and Nursery (Dacorum), Greenfield's Primary School (Watford) and The Reddings Primary School (Dacorum).

The majority of senior schools tend to be in need of football boots for students to take part in PE lessons on their 3G astro pitches. The majority of primary schools wanted trainers for PE lessons.

We gave out 322 pairs of preloved sports shoes to schools over the financial year.

Refugee groups

We worked on an ongoing basis with a number of the local branches of the Herts Welcomes Refugees (HWR) groups. We also worked with St. Albans Refugees, Care 4 Calais, the Refugee Council and the Stevenage Novotel refugee group. We gave out 390 pairs in total to these refugee groups.

Apex 360 ran ongoing football sessions for refugees in Redbourn, so we provided football boots for them. Over the year we provided 58 pairs of preloved boots to their participants.

Homeless Organisations

We continued our relationship with New Hope in Watford and DENS in Dacorum. New Hope held a Health Day at their homeless Drop In Centre in October. Their beneficiaries had access to services such as dental care, liver checks, haircuts and pedicures. We attended with a number of trainers to give to their beneficiaries. We gave out 37 pairs.

We also supported Hightown Housing Association, who ran a similar Homeless Health Day in St. Albans. We gave out 18 pairs of preloved trainers at this event.

Both of these Health Days proved very successful in helping the homeless access goods and service that they wouldn't normally have access to. We are booked in to attend more of these at both New Hope and with Hightown in the next financial year.

Community Foodbanks

We made a connection with the three community foodbanks in Dacorum. They were initially started by a group of three churches and linked this way, but each foodbank is run separately. We have visited the Apsley food bank more regularly. Their clients tend to be the homeless and the residents of the Druglink supported housing.

In total we gave out 177 pairs to the three foodbanks over the financial year.

Druglink

We connected with Druglink, who were looking at getting their clients in to regular exercise as part of their recovery journey. We provided preloved running shoes for some people who wanted to go to the gym and to some who wanted go running. Once these clients started their exercise they decided to enter a running race and this inspired more people to start running, so we provided more preloved running shoes.

Druglink ended up putting a team of clients, staff and supporters in to the Hyde Park 5km run and used this as a fundraiser for their charity.

St. Albans and Hertsmere Womens Refuge (SAHWR)

We provided some preloved trainers and football boots to a number of women and children that SAHWR support. SAHWR have been organising walking and exercise classes for the women so providing the trainers for them to wear was a great help to them.

Women and Girls Festival

Herts Sports Partnership organised a festival in June in Hemel. It offered a range of sports for women and children to try for free. They had a day of programs, with both indoor and outdoor activities. We gave out 27 pairs of preloved sports shoes to ensure those who attended had the right footwear.

Pop Up Stands

We ran more Pop Up Sessions at The Active Hub over the summer holidays and October half term. As we had found in the previous financial year, the summer sessions proved very successful in helping families access free preloved sports shoes for their children for the new school year. We gave out 294 pairs in total over these sessions.

Shoe Drives

We had a number of organisations hold Shoe Drives for us this financial year. Some clubs, such as the Chineham Park Running Club and Dunstable parkrun, were organisations that have held Shoe Drives in the past for us.

New ones included schools, running clubs and local businesses. They were: the Running High Club, a new running club in Apsley; Berkhamsted and Hemel Hockey Club; Luton Someries Rotary Club; Warriors Amateur Boxing Club; Greenway Primary and Nursery School and Computacentre, who are running a number of Shoe Drives over the year. We are also working with Rickmansworth School on an ongoing basis, as they are donating all the sports shoes in their lost property at the end of each term.

One Impossible Challenge

We launched a series of challenges to encourage people to be more active. They were open for anyone to join in. Participants chose their own targets, so whatever their level of fitness was, everyone could benefit. All participants were also offered a free pair of preloved sports shoes if they needed them to be able to take part.

We set up an online community through a private Facebook Group, for people to share their achievements and struggles as they went through their challenge. It was a way to motivate and encourage people on their journey. Local business Cardo sponsored the challenges, by providing a number of prizes to encourage participation.

Our three challenges all had a slightly different angle to the challenge, but they essentially involved participants choosing an activity, like running, swimming, walking, dancing etc. and then choosing the distance they thought they could cover during the challenge. This meant people of any level of fitness could take part as the goals were personalised to each individuals level.

We had 17 people actively taking part in each of our first two challenges, but this had dropped to 8 by the third challenge. Those who took really enjoyed it and found it motivated them. It even motivated one participant to sign up for next years London Marathon! We need to look at a way to promote this better so that we can increase the number of participants.

Storage

In this financial year we have been using two storage areas. Our main storage area has been at The Active Dacorum Hub, in a decommissioned toilet and shower block. This space is being used to store all our shoes once they have been cleaned. We also have a smaller storage area at a local Dacorum business, where we have been storing our shoes that need to be washed. Both of these storage spaces have been kindly offered to us on a no cost basis.

The Active Dacorum Hub is buying a large storage container, which we have the opportunity to rent half of. This will enable us to store all our shoes in one location and cut down on wasted time spent moving shoes backwards and forwards between locations. It would also enable us to have a permanent space that people can come to obtain sports shoes and would be a place that we can hold Pop Up Sessions during the school holidays.

This container would have a rental cost attached to it, so we currently have applied for a grant from HCF to cover the cost for one year.

Volunteers

We took on two new trustees in this financial year, as two trustees terms came to an end. Sam Ward and Lynsey Hanafan both retired and Lucia Jelley and Nichola Drew were welcomed on board. Both Lucia and Nichola have both been supporters of the charity since we started. Lucia was one of the first people to hear about us and donate her sports shoes to us. Nichola was one of our first beneficiaries as we helped her out with preloved football boots for her two sons.

We also depend on volunteers to clean shoes. We have been continuing to run our monthly shoe cleaning sessions and have a pool of volunteers that come to these sessions regularly. We have anything from two - seven volunteers turning up at any one session. We also continue to have a few Duke of Edinburgh students who clean shoes in their own home once a week over a period of three months.

Awards

We were delighted to be the recipient of a Sport for Good Award from the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire. We received this award at a ceremony held in March at the University of Hertfordshire. The award also included a monetary prize, which will be accounted for in the next financial years accounts.

Success stories

We helped a student at Adeyfield Academy by providing a pair of preloved athletic spikes. She who was a good runner, but lacked confidence. The spikes meant she could compete alongside others without the disadvantage of losing vital seconds. This gave her confidence and inspired her to join an athletics club.

Our work with the homeless has ensured they can carry on their daily routines. For example with the homeless we work with through New Hope, two of the problems they face are issues with mental health and the boredom each day brings. Walking is one way they address this. This means a lot of wear and tear on their shoes, so having a functional pair of trainers is essential.

Our preloved sports shoes have helped our refugee beneficiaries take part in sport, which helps with their mental and physical health. Many refugees only arrive with a pair of flip flops, but to take part in sport they must have a pair of suitable shoes. For example we provided preloved football boots to Apex 360 who were running football sessions for refugees and we provided preloved trainers to Herts Welcomes Refugees so their refugees could make use of the free gym facilities that they had been offered.

Our preloved sports shoes have also helped our beneficiaries gain the confidence they need in school. For example, for students at Chiltern Way Academy, which caters for students with SEMH needs, PE lessons help with their attention span, self esteem and their cognitive functions. Many of the students turn up to play football with only their school shoes. Functional sports shoes are therefore a priority for the students to enable them to fully take part and benefit from their PE lessons.

Financial details

Revenue

We had a number of supporter led events this financial year.

In the first few months of the financial year, the support from our monthly quiz came to an end as the quiz rotated to a new charity. We received a total of £474 from the quiz organisers in this financial year.

We again took part in the Hemel Hempstead Rotary Christmas Santa Sleigh and received £320, a share of the money raised.

An ex-trustee, Denise Burford, secured a place in the London Marathon through the ballot. She decided to raise money for us and another charity (Family Rights Group). As the marathon is in April, the funds she raised are spread over two financial years. In this financial year £637 had been banked in to our account.

We were the charity partner for the Boxmoor Virtual Marathon, an active challenge where all participants had to walk, run, dance, step or swim their way through the marathon distance of 26.2 miles over a 10 week period. As the charity partner, participants were encouraged to collect donations for One Impossible Thing. We received £1,028 in total.

One new fundraising method we tried this financial year was joining in to The Giving Lottery. This is a lottery which charities can sign up to and they receive a percentage of the number of tickets they sell. We thought this would be a good way for supporters to donate to us, as participants also have a chance to win £25,000 each week. This didn't prove to be as popular as we thought. We had a few people sign up and so we raised £28 in total. We have decided this is not something that we are going to carry on.

We were lucky to receive £1,000 through a prize draw from the Benefact Group. They run their prize draws every couple of months, for all nominated charities. For each person that nominates One Impossible Thing, we receive a ticket in to the draw. This is an ongoing draw that we encourage supporters to sign up to for free.

Our total funds raised for the financial year was £3,604. This compares to £19,038 last financial year. The bulk of our money last financial year was received through grants from The National Lottery and Hertfordshire Community Foundation. We have applied to these two grant bodies again, for £18,000 and £2,400 respectively. If successful, this money will not be received until next financial year (FY 25/26).

Expenditure

We spent a total of £18,800. This meant our expenditure was quite a bit more than our revenue. However this was not a cash flow issue as the majority of the expenditure was for the Charity Manager wage. Money which we had received in the previous financial year (FY 23/24).

Our largest expense was £16,937 for the Charity Manager (wages/tax/pension). Other larger costs included: IT expenses (website platform, domain, email addresses) - £510; branded recycling bins - £441; petrol reimbursement costs for volunteers - £410; and volunteer expenses (cake, tea, coffee, milk for shoe cleaners, Easter Eggs,

Christmas chocolates and cards) - £240. A complete breakdown of all costs can be seen in our budget breakdown.

Summary

Having the funds to employ a Charity Manager, has meant we have been able to reach out to more groups. This is because we know we will be able to support these groups in the long term, rather than relying on the goodwill of volunteers to ensure the viability of the charity. We are delighted with the connections we have made and the variety of groups we have been able to help.

Storage has been an ongoing factor again for this financial year, with shoes still split over two locations, meaning there was a lot of wasted time in the logistics of running the operation. Moving in to next financial year we are hopeful to have found an solution, if the funding comes together.

Our main focus moving in to FY25/26 is how to ensure the charity is sustainable from a funding point of view. We need to look at multiple funding streams - business sponsorship, merchandise, grants, fundraising events - to ensure we the charity is financially viable in to the future.

Report prepared by
Fiona Foulkes
Charity Manager and Founder
One Impossible Thing
April 2025

Financial year from 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025	
	Revenue
Our events	
The Giving Lottery	£28.00
Supporter led events	
The Patch Pub Quiz	£474.00
Rotary Santa Sleigh	£320.00
Boxmoor Virtual Marathon	£1,028.24
Denise's London Marathon	£637.29
General Donations	£116.50
Grants	
Benefact Group	£1,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	£3,604.03
	Costs
Recycling baskets/bins	£441.57
Membership fees	£40.00
Marketing	£17.00
Cleaning and shoe repairs	£67.18
Storage equipment	£0.00
IT	£510.84
Stationery and postage	£27.75
Bank fees	£1.44
Insurance	£105.66
Salary - Charity Manager	£16,937.24
Rent and utilities	£0.00
Petrol reimbursements	£410.64
Volunteer expenses	£240.92
TOTAL COSTS	£18,800.24

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SPORTS SHOE NETWORK

Annual Report 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

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Summary of our main activities

- Collecting preloved sports shoes in our permanent recycling bins in sports venues in Dacorum, Luton and St. Albans
- Collecting preloved sports shoes through Shoe Drives held by schools, sports clubs and businesses.
- Promoting recycling and reuse of sports shoes through encouraging clubs and schools to run Shoe Drives and issuing thank you certificates showing the amount of CO2 emissions saved
- Cleaning sports shoes through monthly group cleaning sessions
- Sorting the sports shoes in to size and type of shoe
- Working with schools, activity clubs for those on Free School Meals, refugee groups, homeless charities and other charitable organisations to establish their need for sports shoes and distribute the shoes through them

Overview

Since we started, we have distributed 3,827 pairs of preloved sports shoes. This equates to a saving of 53.578 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Distributions

Schools

This financial year we worked with a number of schools in Dacorum and Luton to provide free sports shoes for their students. These included Galley Hill Primary School (Dacorum), Brockswood Primary School (Dacorum), Belswains Primary School (Dacorum), Lime Walk Primary School (Dacorum), Adeyfield Academy (Dacorum), The Hemel Hempstead School (Dacorum), Longdean School (Dacorum), Kings Langley School (Dacorum), Slip End Village School (Luton), Chiltern Academy (Luton) and Chiltern Way Academy (Wendover).

The senior schools tend to be in need of football boots. The schools have 3G astro pitches that they use for games lessons and after school clubs. They only allow moulded football boots (not trainers or astro boots) on these surfaces. Some families cannot afford the cost of an extra pair of sports shoes for their children.

Whilst the majority of shoes we deliver to senior schools are football boots, we also deliver trainers. For example Chiltern Way Academy caters for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). PE lessons at the school are a great benefit to these students. It can help with their

attention span, their self esteem and their cognitive functions. It is also a platform for some students to excel, which in turn increases their confidence in other subjects. Many of the students don't have the right footwear. On the rainy day that we turned up, one boy had turned up to his PE lesson with a hole in his trainers, so functional sports shoes are a priority.

The primary schools tend to be in need of trainers for some of their pupils. But with the growing interest in girls football, primary schools are increasingly needing football boots for their newly formed girls football teams.

We have also worked with school support services in Dacorum, including Gade Schools Family Support and Dacorum Education Support Centre. Gade Schools Family Support have Family Support Workers who work with parents and children within the schools in Dacorum. Examples of those we helped included a mum who had two children with SEND. We provided football boots for her children so they could join in football lessons and in the school football club.

Dacorum Adventure Playgrounds

We worked with two of the Adventure Playgrounds in Dacorum. The Adventure Playgrounds provide a free play facility for children aged 8-16, where children can come and go as they choose without the need for a parent to supervise. The facilities are supervised by qualified staff. We provided trainers, astro boots and football boots for children that didn't have suitable footwear, so they could enjoy the outdoor facilities and astro football pitches that the playgrounds offer.

Pop Up Stands

We ran three Pop Up Sessions at The Active Hub over the summer holidays. These proved very successful in helping families access free sports shoes for their children for the new school year 23/24. We distributed 56 pairs of sports shoes over the three sessions. Although families tended to come in to the pop up sessions looking for sports shoes for their secondary school aged children, we also found that younger children and sometimes parents, were in need of sports shoes. We were happy to supply these to all that needed them.

Refugee groups

We worked with the Herts Welcomes Refugees (HWR) groups from Hemel, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage. The group in Hatfield had managed to secure free use of Herts Sports Village for their refugees and needed trainers for those that wanted to use the sports facilities. They also had a volunteer who had started football sessions for some of the refugees and needed football boots for all the players.

We also worked with Care 4 Calais, Needham Hotel (Hitchin) and Active Luton. Active Luton set up a Friday indoor football session for refugees. Many of the refugee did not have any suitable shoes and were playing in bare feet. We provided trainers to them.

Inclusive United

Inclusive United are a CIC who run activity and sports sessions for underrepresented groups. They run a futsal session on a Friday for people with learning disabilities. We provided sports shoes for some of those that attended these sessions.

New Hope

New Hope is a homeless charity based in Watford. We provided them with 42 pairs of trainers and walking boots. The majority of these were for those that attend their support centre - The Haven. Two of the problems facing those living on the streets are issues with mental health and the boredom that each day brings. One gentleman who they used to support, would walk from Watford to Hatfield and back, every day, to

both overcome his boredom and to help improve his mental health. So our shoes offered a small respite to the day to day living of those on the streets.

Dacorum Girls Football Tournament

Dacorum School Support Network work with both primary and senior schools across Dacorum to encourage sport within schools. On International Women's Day (8th March) they held a girls football tournament for primary school aged girls. The majority of Dacorum schools attended and we went along to give out football boots to girls that didn't have them. We found a few girls who only had school shoes to play in and lots of girls who needed football boots as they were sliding around in their trainers.

Active Luton

Active Luton organise Energise Luton Holiday camps to run free activity clubs during school holidays, for students on FSM. The camps are funded by the Dept for Education. We provided 44 pairs of trainers so they could be distributed to some of those students who attended their Christmas camps.

High 5 and HAPpy Camps

These camps are similar to the Active Luton camps, offering free activity camps to students on FSM, but they are based in Hertfordshire. We supplied 90 pairs of trainers in total to these camps that Apex 360 organised in the February half term and Easter holidays.

Shoe Drives

We had our biggest ever Shoe Drive in February this year, when Oaklands Wolves Basketball Club collected 158 pairs of preloved sports shoes. Players, coaches and supporters all donated their preloved sports shoes through donation points they had set up in their St. Albans and Welwyn Garden City campus. They presented a cage full of sports shoes to us on one of their match days.

Other organisations who were involved in Shoe Drives this financial year were Osborne Property, Chineham Park Running Club, Hatfield Police Station, Westbrook Hay School, St. Albans Hockey Club, Thrive Homes, My Refill Life, Welwyn Garden City Hockey Club, Boness Vats, Rebound Redkites Netball Club and Harpenden Arrows Running Club.

Storage

At the end of the last financial year we were storing our shoes in the old Debenhams building. We had to move out in May 2023, when it was sold. We secured some space at The Active Dacorum Hub, in a decommissioned toilet and shower block. We bought some shelves and set up our storage in there. This space is currently being used to store all our shoes once they have been cleaned.

We are outgrowing this space but there may be the opportunity to expand in to one or two other connected rooms. This would give us the opportunity to store both our dirty and clean shoes at this one location. At the moment we are still storing our dirty shoes in a different location. We could then run all of our shoe cleaning sessions at The Active Hub, keeping all of the shoes in one place. This would cut down on time wasted moving shoes backwards and forwards between locations.

Volunteers

Until the end the calendar year of 2023, we were 100% reliant on volunteers to run the charity. The majority of volunteers we engage with help to clean the shoes we receive in. We have two ways our volunteers do this. We hold monthly/bi-monthly (dependent on need) shoe cleaning sessions. This is normally held for three hours on

a Friday at the studio of one of our ex-trustees. The dirty shoes are stored here and volunteers come in for as long or as little as they like, to help clean the shoes. It has become quite a social occasion with volunteers getting stuck in and chatting with others.

The other way that volunteers can help to clean the shoes, is in their home. The majority of these are Duke of Edinburgh students who are required to volunteer for a three month stint as part of their Bronze Award. We drop off a basket of shoes with them each week, which they clean. We then pick up the basket the following week and drop off the next basket of dirty shoes. This financial year we had seven DofE students volunteering.

Our other volunteers are our trustees. During this financial year we saw two trustees leave and we appointed a paid Charity Manager. David Foulkes came to the end of his tenure and decided not to stand again. Fiona Foulkes resigned as a trustee and became the Charity Manager.

The trustees have defined roles. Our current trustees are Ray Gardiner (Chair), Rebecca Hemmant-Low (Fundraising Business Trustee), Sam Ward (Marketing Trustee) and Lynsey Hanafan (Volunteer Trustee). We are actively looking for two more trustees, including a Financial Trustee.

Financial details

Revenue

Rather than organising fundraising events, as we did in our previous financial year, we switched tack and concentrated on applying for grants to earn income.

Initially we were turned down by The National Lottery Community Fund, but they suggested we apply for a smaller amount through their Awards for All fund. At the end of the calendar year we heard we had been successful in securing £9,000. At the same time we applied for a grant from Hertfordshire Community Foundation. In December we received news that we had been awarded £9,000 through their grant scheme.

In terms of charity partners, we continued to be one of two charities supported by a monthly pub quiz night. This continued to June 2023. We received a total of £438 from the quiz organisers in this financial year.

In terms of community donations, we received a donation from Berkhamsted Rotary Club for £250 in July 2023.

We also took part in the Hemel Hempstead Rotary Christmas Santa Sleigh and in January 2024 we received £350, a share of the money raised.

We raised a total of £19,038.

Expenditure

We spent a total of £4,400.13. As we received the money to fund a Charity Manager towards the end of the financial year, it means that our revenue is quite a bit more than our expenditure. This will balance out in the coming financial year.

Approximately half of the money spent was for the wages for the Charity Manager. Other larger costs included our IT expenses (website platform, domain, email addresses) which was £492.16 in total; shelving for our storage (£274.92) petrol reimbursement costs for volunteers (£183.15), baskets and branded bins for shoes

(£146.49) and public liability insurance (£105.60). A complete breakdown of all costs can be seen in our budget breakdown.

Summary

Moving in to our second year we were delighted to be recognised for our work by both The National Lottery Community Fund and HCF, who had faith in our ability and cause, to fund our work. We need to ensure that we can carry on funding our work, so we are looking at a number of funding streams moving in to the financial year 24/25. Grants, fundraising events, business sponsorship and merchandise are all ways we are looking to fund our work.

Fundraising events we are looking at next financial year include a preloved Fashion Show, One Impossible Week and as a charity partner to the Boxmoor Virtual Marathon.

Storage is still an ongoing factor, with shoes still split over two locations, meaning there is a lot of wasted time in the logistics of running the operation. An ideal situation would be one place where people drop in if they need sports shoes, shoes can be delivered, cleaned and packed up, and volunteers can come on a regular basis to help in all this work. The opportunities that may unfold at The Active Hub could help in this. In the meantime we still need to hold Pop Up Sessions for people to pop in to, regular shoe cleaning sessions and we need to look at recruiting volunteer drivers to help pick up shoes from our permanent recycling bins.

Report prepared by
Fiona Foulkes
Charity Manager and Founder
One Impossible Thing
2nd April 2024

Actual costs 23/24

	Total
Recycling baskets/bins	£146.49
Membership fees	£40.00
Marketing	£5.42
Cleaning and shoe repairs	£98.08
Storage equipment	£288.42
IT	£492.16
Stationery	£32.97
Bank fees	£1.44
Insurance	£105.60
Salary	£2,919.40
Petrol reimbursements	£183.15
Volunteer expenses	£87.00
TOTAL	£4,400.13

Actual revenue 23/24

	Actual 23/24
Supporter Led events	
Rotary Santa Sleigh	£350.00
The Patch Pub Quiz	£438.00
Community Donations	
Berko Rotary	£250.00
Grants	
HCF	£9,000.00
National Lottery	£9,000.00
TOTAL	£19,038.00

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SPORTS SHOE NETWORK

Annual Report 10th Feb 2022 - 31st March 2023

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- (a) free recycled sports shoes to enable them to participate in sports and activities
- (b) promoting the benefits of recycling and reuse of sports shoes
- (c) raising awareness of the beneficial effect that participation in sports and exercise has on both mental and physical health.

We work with schools, youth groups, activities for those on Free School Meals, refugee groups, homeless charities and other charitable organisations to ensure these shoes are helping out those who need them most.

Summary of our main activities

- Collecting preloved sports shoes in our permanent recycling bins in sports venues in Dacorum, Luton and St. Albans
- Collecting preloved sports shoes through Shoe Drives held by schools and sports clubs
- Promoting recycling and reuse of sports shoes through encouraging clubs and schools to run Shoe Drives and issuing thank you certificates showing the amount of CO2 emissions saved
- Cleaning sports shoes through weekly group cleaning sessions
- Volunteers cleaning sports shoes in their home
- Sorting the sports shoes in to size and type of shoe
- Distributing the sports shoes to those that need a little extra help through schools, youth groups, activity clubs for those on Free School Meals, refugee groups, homeless charities and other charitable organisations
- Working with schools, community groups and charities to establish the need of their students/service users, in order to support them with donations of sports shoes.

Funding

In order to achieve the above, we have organised our own fundraising events. In March 2022 we held One Impossible Week, which encouraged supporters to run 5kms every day for a week and fundraise by asking friends and family to sponsor them. In February 2023 we held a Gala Dinner and fundraised through ticket sales, a raffle, an auction and games on the night.

We also took part in the Hemel Hempstead Rotary Christmas Santa Sleigh and received a share of the money raised.

We have also been the recipient of supporter led fundraising events: an 80th birthday; a clothes swap party; a monthly pub quiz night; and a raffle at each of Dacorum Running Club's two gala events.

In terms of community donations, we have received these from Berkhamsted Rotary, Waitrose and the Free Masons.

We raised a total of £9,993.60 and spent £6,244.72.

Volunteers

We are a volunteer led and volunteer powered organisation. We rely on volunteers to collect the shoes, clean the shoes, sort the shoes and distribute the shoes. We also rely on volunteers to organise fundraising events.

Need

By talking with charities, schools and recipients of our sport shoes, we ensure that we understand the need in the community and are offering solutions that are helpful to those in need.

School PE teachers have told us that they have students pretending to forget their football boots for their PE lesson, because their family can't afford them. The students would rather be handed a detention for 'forgetting' their boots than admit that cost is an issue. We have also been told by primary school PE coaches that students are being excluded from PE lessons because they don't have the appropriate trainers to do sport in.

We have had families contact us as they can't keep up with their children's growing feet. Football boots aren't lasting a season as children's feet grow to the next size up, school trainers not lasting the school year as children's feet grow.

We are in touch with refugee groups who have refugee families being resettled and starting school and they don't have any money to pay for school uniforms and PE kit.

Organisations we have worked with

HACRO (Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders)
They received a grant from the LTA to run tennis lessons for ex-offenders. We provided tennis shoes for those who were learning at Bovingdon Tennis Club (March 2023)

The Swan Project

They received funding from Herts Sports Partnership to run HAPpy Camps (activity camps for kids on FSM). We provided trainers for those that needed them. (Summer holidays 2022)

Active Luton

They organise Energise Luton Holiday camps to run activity clubs during school holidays for those on FSM. They are funded by the Dept for Education. We provided them with sports shoes for those that don't have appropriate shoes. (Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022)

Hemel FC

They organise football sessions for girls 5-8 who want to get in to football. The sessions are sponsored by the Weetablx Wild Cats program. We provided football boots for those that needed them (Feb 2023).

Leeanna's Wish CIC

They run a Saturday session for women 30+ to play football. Its funded by Herts Sports Partnership and the National Lottery Community Fund. We provided football boots for those that needed them (Oct/Nov 2022).

DENS

We provided trainers for their service users who attend their Day Centre (Oct 2022)

Care 4 Calais and Herts Welcomes Refugees

We provided trainers on an ongoing basis in 2022 and 2023 to the refugees they work with.

Schools

We have worked with a number of schools in Dacorum, Luton, Watford and St. Albans to provide free sports shoes for their students throughout 2022 and 2023. These included Chiltern Academy (Luton), Downside Primary School (Luton), Adeyfield Academy (Hemel Hempstead), Hobletts Junior School (Hemel Hempstead), Central Primary School (Watford), Field Junior School (Watford), Lawrence Haines School (Watford) and Marlborough Science Academy (St. Albans).

Data

We distributed 2,030 pairs of preloved sports shoes in our first year, to 31 March 2023. Within three years, by April 2025, we aim to distribute 10,000 pairs.

Summary

We are pleased with our progress in our first year. To move forward and achieve our goal of distributing 10,000 pairs of preloved sports shoes, we need a few things in place. We need a permanent hub where the shoes can be washed, dried and packed up, through an expanded volunteers work force. At the moment we have a free temporary storage place that we may need to vacate with a months notice and we are using one of the Trustees office space to wash and store a smaller number of shoes. Alongside this we also have a number of volunteers who wash shoes in their house each week.

In the next financial year we need to raise funds, either through fundraising, grants and/or donations, so we can rent a permanent community hub to cover all our needs as per above. This would also be a place for the community to come to, so they can try on and take away the sports shoes they and their families need.

Report prepared by
Fiona Foulkes
Chair of Trustees
One Impossible Thing
21st April 2023

Expenditure

	Actual 22/23	Includes
Recycling baskets/bins	£401.21	Baskets, bins and collection bags
Membership fees	£36.00	CAD yearly membership
Cleaning	£75.28	Boot buddies, washing up liquid, washing up bowls
Marketing	£205.20	Banners; labels, stickers and string for shoes
IT	£377.11	Website domain, hosting and email accounts
Stationery	£11.40	Sellotape and stamps
Bank fees	£52.80	Sum Up machine
Fundraising costs - One Impossible Week	£185.56	One Impossible Week socks and GoFundMe fees
Fundraising costs - Gala Dinner	£4,890.56	Food, venue, drinks, magician, decorations, ticket fees (Sum Up and eventbrite)
Insurance	£9.60	Public liability insurance
TOTAL	£6,244.72	

Income

	Actual 22/23	
Our events		
One Impossible Week	£1,100.00	
Gala Dinner	£5,964.60	£1,410.60 direct cash, £2,136 Sum Up, £2,418 Eventbrite
Supporter led events		
Sheila 80th	£100.00	
Denise clothes swap	£80.00	
Dacorum Running Club	£855.00	
Rotary Santa Sleigh	£550.00	22/23 was 2 Santa Sleigh's
The Patch Pub Quiz	£644.00	3 months paid to 31 March
Community Donations		
Berko Rotary	£250.00	
Waitrose	£250.00	
Free Masons	£200.00	
TOTAL	£9,993.60	